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Grade K-5 CA History Social Science Framework Draft Recommendations

To: California History Social Science Framework Revision Committee

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Date: **April 30, 2015**

Line 1176:

I strongly recommend that the CA History Social Science Framework Revision Committee further develop as well as explain and verify historical information of "repatriation" on Line 1176. This is especially important given the magnitude of an injustice which affected over 1 million Mexican and Mexican Americans thereby affecting the history of this group which now comprises the majority of students in Grades K-12. The voices of survivors are available at the CSU Fullerton Center for Oral and Public History, on the internet, and in reputable documentaries available on the internet (Boucher, Kissell & Larson, LLP. (Producer), 2004). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ5pvg5-4Nk>. Such study will also provide students with more current historical social justice developments related to this injustice.

It is critical that students learn about the history of Mexican Americans in the 20th century rather than limiting study to the period preceding 1848 and the period shortly thereafter. It is particularly important that students learn about the courage and patriotism of those expelled as well as the leadership taken by the state of California to issue an apology for violation of constitutional and human rights.

The mention of repatriation is a very modest improvement over the previous framework that did not mention this mass expulsion. Repatriation was a cruel euphemism and cover word for the unconstitutional deportation of Mexican and Mexican Americans, 60% who were American born children (Balderrama & Rodriguez, 2006). A word find of "Mexican" indicates that the term is used 25 times with references to the Ranchero period, the Gold Rush, the Mission period and the years preceding 1848 or shortly thereafter. By comparison, Mexican or Mexican American is used only 2 times with respect to the history of an immensely important population of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Given the signing of the Apology Act of 2005 (SB 670) finally acknowledging this injustice as well as the passage of SB 614 and now AB 146 for inclusion in history/science curriculum of this forced expulsion it is urgent that teachers be provided with background information beyond what appears in Line 1176. Common Core Standards in Language Arts/ELD certainly supports the inclusion of the unconstitutional deportation of Mexican and Mexican Americans in the 1930s with media sources available on the internet and traditional media sources for students to engage in document reading and textual evidence for critical thinking and comprehension.

I include a few of those sources below which are also highlighted in a few professional journals (Valenciana, 2006; Valenciana & Ordoñez-Jasis, 2012). Several of these sources have been successfully used by students as young as 4th grade as evidenced by the testimony recently provided by 5th grade Bell Gardens Elementary School students

on behalf of AB 146 at the California State Assembly

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1SaYaU6du8&feature=youtu.be>). These students proposed that unconstitutional deportation be required California curriculum. Other students have studied this injustice including the current campaign for social justice and have produced documentaries readily available (Correra, A., 2012. Apology Ceremony Daily Titan Online, February 26, 2012). Students beginning in 2004 have won regional, state and national competitions on this mass expulsion thereby providing further evidence for the feasibility of teaching about this expulsion. It is time that our state framework represent all Californians as requested by our young students!

References and Resources for Teachers

Apology Act Memorial & Exhibit: La Plaza de Cultura y Artes 501 N. Main, Los Angeles 90012, 213.542.6200

<http://www.lapca.org>

Balderrama, F. & Rodriguez, R. (2006). *Decade of Betrayal: Mexican repatriation in the 1930s*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico.

Boucher, Kissell & Larson, LLP. (Producer) (2004). **Expulsion of U.S. Citizens**. [DVD]

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ5pvg5-4Nk>

California State Assembly. (2015). Garcia, Students Lead Effort to Put Mexican Repatriation into History Books. Assembly Report. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1SaYaU6du8&feature=youtu.be>

Valenciana, C. (1971-1976). **Mexican American Collection**, OH # 700, 1300, 1301, 1298, 752, 753, 1299, 1295, 759 and 1300. Center for Oral and Public History, California State University Fullerton.

<http://coph.fullerton.edu/mexicanAmerican.asp>

Correra, A. (Writer). (2012). **Apology Ceremony Daily Titan Online**, February 26, 2012.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZAge5WYirE>

Valenciana, C. (2006). **Unconstitutional deportation of Mexican Americans during the 1930's: A family history and oral history**. *Multicultural Education Journal*. 13, (3) 4-9

Valenciana, C. & Ordoñez-Jasis, J. (2012). **Unconstitutional deportation of the 1930s: Learning from the voices of the past**. *The Social Studies*, 103(2), 81-89.